

Philippine rebel leader escapes

MANILA (AP) — The jailed commander of the Communist rebel army escaped Saturday with his wife, slipping away from a birthday party for his former stockade commandant while the current warden dozed in his office, officials said. Philippine constabulary spokesman Cresencio Marañon said the military flashed a nationwide alarm and sealed off approaches to Manila after Romulo Kintanar and his wife Gloria fled about 3 p.m. (0700 GMT) from the home of Major Robelito Comilang. Kintanar and his wife were arrested last March in Manila along with Rafael Baylosis, alleged secretary-general of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines. Marañon told reporters an investigation was under way because Kintanar was a "maximum security prisoner" who should not have been allowed to leave the prison and should not have been left without guard outside his cell. Comilang said he had invited Kintanar and other prisoners to his birthday party at his home at Camp Crane, which includes the constabulary headquarters and the stockade. Pantaleon Dumla, senior officer on duty Saturday at Camp Crane, said in a report that Kintanar was released from his cell about noon and escorted to Comilang's home for the party.

Volume 13 Number 3932

AMMAN SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13, 1988, RABIA THANI 4, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

AROUND THE WORLD...

Cheysson: Israel will have to negotiate

CAIRO (R) — Israel will have to negotiate with Palestinians and other parties to the Middle East conflict, European Economic Community (EEC) Commissioner Claude Cheysson said Saturday. Neither Israelis nor Palestinians "should try to impose on the other what it would not accept for itself," he told a news conference after talks with Egyptian ministers. Cheysson said he felt the Israelis would have to accept negotiations with the Palestinians and other parties concerned with foreign governments aiding and guaranteeing a conference. Asked whether Israel would start talks while Yitzhak Shamir, who opposed an international conference, was prime minister, Cheysson said many Israelis wondered whether it was worth paying the price of continuing to occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Walesa says Poles are 'fed up'

PARIS (AP) — Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said his countrymen were "fed up" and that if the government did not allow greater political pluralism their frustration was going to "explode." Walesa made the remarks in an interview published Saturday in the Conservative French daily *Le Figaro*. "We are all tired. We must quickly find a solution. People are fed up and things are going to explode. I am worried. One day before long, if nothing is done, I will no longer be able to say to the people, 'be patient,'" he said. "The people will take to the street and break everything. Especially the youth. Young people treat me like an old man and I understand them," he said. On Friday, police fought young demonstrators throughout Poland with batons, tear-gas and water cannons. Tens of thousands of people rallied to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the rebirth of the Polish state (see page 8).

34 killed in Columbian rebel attack

BOGOTA (AP) — About 200 leftist guerrillas hurled bombs and fired automatic weapons at a northern mining town and its military base, and a provincial governor said Saturday that 34 people were killed and 31 wounded. The guerrillas threw the bombs at the telephone company, town hall and a crowded square Friday night in Segovia, according to Antioquia Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur, who denied the assault in an interview with *Caracol* Radio. The town is 290 kilometers northwest of Bogota. "There has never been an attack so bloody and so cruel, especially directed against the civilian population," Betancur said. It was the deadliest guerrilla attack in Colombia since Aug. 23, when 42 people were killed — 12 civilians, 12 police and military and 18 guerrillas — in a raid in the town of Saiza, 350 kilometers north of Bogota.

Shamir promises to change Jewish law

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir promised four religious political parties his Likud bloc would change a crucial law determining who classifies as Jewish in Israel, if the parties join his government. The leader of the hardline Likud bloc made the pledge Friday, despite vocal opposition by Jewish leaders abroad who object to the so-called "who's a Jew" amendment and say it would divide the Jewish people. "Prime Minister Shamir told the religious parties he is sure he can pass the law within three months of the new government," said Shamir's spokesman Yossi Achimeir. "It's not ideal, but the silent majority (of Jews abroad) will accept it with understanding," Achimeir said.

Egypt denies tensions with Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid denied Saturday reports of increasing tensions with Sudan over the activities in Cairo of ousted Sudanese leader Jaafar Numeiri. "There is no rise in tension," Abdul Meguid told a news conference. He and other Egyptian leaders declined further comment. The London newspaper *Asharq Al Awsat* quoted an "authorised source" in Khartoum as saying Sudan had frozen ministerial contacts with Egypt because of Numeiri.

Salvador rebels to call truce

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist rebels have said they would call a truce for the Organisation of American States (OAS) meeting opening here Monday, hours after battling government troops on the outskirts of the capital. Security had been a major concern following an increase in guerrilla violence here, including the rocketing last Saturday of the hotel where OAS general assembly sessions will be held. A massive security operation involving thousands of troops has turned San Salvador into an armed camp. Combat patrols trudge through the slums around the Sheraton, columns of armoured tanks cruise the streets and there are random checkpoints throughout the city.

Swiss agree to release Marcos files

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has agreed to give the United States the records of some financial transactions made by deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his family for use in a fraud and racketeering case against them. Justice Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler said Saturday that the ministry had agreed to the request after the United States requested the files under a judicial assistance treaty. Marcos' lawyers have the right to appeal the decision in the Swiss supreme court.

Pakistani court orders use of ID cards

LAHORE (AP) — The supreme court Saturday ordered that Pakistani voters will have to produce state identity cards in order to cast their ballots in Nov. 16 and 19 general elections. It came as an injunction from the 12-member bench, suspending a high court ruling Tuesday that threw out the ID card requirement after it was challenged by the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Benazir Bhutto. The PPP claimed a large segment of Pakistan's 48-million eligible voters did not have the cards, especially women who refuse to be photographed according to tradition.

Soviet shuttle launch set for Tuesday

MOSCOW (AP) — The maiden launch of the Soviet space shuttle, already scrubbed once because of a technical mishap in the final minute of countdown, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, the TASS news agency announced Saturday. "The cause of the delay has now been eliminated and the Energia (booster rocket) system with the Buran orbiter is undergoing pre-launch preparations," TASS reported. "Liftoff has been scheduled for 6:00 Moscow time (0300 GMT) Nov. 15," the agency said.

Soviets stage nuclear test

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Saturday staged an underground nuclear test with a yield of up to 20 kilotonnes with a view to improving Soviet military technology, the news agency TASS reported. The test explosion occurred at 6:30 a.m. Moscow time (0330 GMT) at the Semipalatinsk proving grounds on the steppes of Kazakhstan in Soviet Central Asia, TASS said. "The goal of the testing was upgrading military technology," TASS said, without providing additional details.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

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Power, water tariffs reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday set new rates for electricity and water. During a regular session, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet decided to lower electricity rates as follows, effective as of Nov. 1: (1) For domestic consumers the price per kilowatt (kw) for the first 160 kw will be reduced from 31 fils to 28 fils; (2) For electricity used for pumping water for irrigation the price of a kw drops from 23 fils to 21 fils; (3) Price per kw of electricity used for street lighting in Amman and tripartite governorates were reduced from 13 fils to 9.465 fils. A Peak hours for industrial cities from six hours daily to three. Water prices were fixed as follows, effective as of Oct. 1 and on a three-month cycle: (1) In Amman, 100 fils down from 120 fils for the first 20 cubic metres of water; 190 fils down from 200 fils for the second 20 cubic metres. (2) The rest of the Kingdom, except the Jordan Valley, 65 fils, down from 80 fils, per cubic metre for the first 15 cubic metres of water; and 90 fils down from 96 fils for the next 30 metres. (3) In the Jordan Valley 65 fils down from 80 fils for the first 50 cubic metres and 115 fils down from 120 fils for the second 50 metres. The rest of the rates remain the same.

King urges collective effort towards economic reform

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday described the present economic situation in Jordan as "a passing cloud" and

called for a collective national effort to support government measures for economic reform.



His Majesty King Hussein is briefed on the facilities of the new radio station which His Majesty inaugurated Saturday (Petra photo)

New radio station goes on the air

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday formally opened a new broadcasting station at Kharraneh, east of Amman, and in a speech on the occasion expressed hope that the new facility would serve as a source of information to the world about Jordan's achievements in the economic and social fields.

The new transmission station has been set up to convey Jordan's voice to the outside world and to help bolster the Kingdom's ties with Jordanian expatriates and boost its relations with the rest of the Arab World, the King said in the speech, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Expressing delight at the opening of the station, the King said: "I address you from a new Jordanian forum which we have set up to convey the voice of Jordan to the world, calling for continued dialogue and understanding, and reflecting the Kingdom's true image."

"I am delighted also to recall a similar event 30 years ago when I opened the old transmission station, which has since been re-laying Jordan's voice forcefully in a balanced manner... amid a turbulent world."

The Hashemite Broadcasting Station has been progressing steadily in a clear course conveying the views and thoughts of the Arab Nation and its culture and history and one where different tastes of the Arab Nation's cultures can be conveyed to the outside world.

A Swiss firm began work on the new transmission station in 1986. It has short, medium and longwave transmission systems with the short-wave transmitter broadcasting at 500 kilowatt power, covering North and South America, Canada, Europe, North Africa, the Gulf states, Sudan,

(Continued on page 2)

King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and exchanged views with him on boosting joint Arab action, new developments in the international arena and bilateral relations.

Rafsanjani: No peace means war

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday that the current situation of "no war, no peace" in the Gulf war was not acceptable and without peace the fighting could resume, Tehran radio reported.

Also Saturday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Iraq was ready to give the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) a complete list of Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) if Iran release of similar list.

Rafsanjani, also acting commander of the armed forces, was quoted as saying: "We must either achieve peace or return to war. The present situation is unacceptable."

The third round of peace talks since the United Nations-brokered ceasefire went into effect Aug. 20 ended Friday with no significant progress in consolidating the truce.

Rafsanjani also contended that Iraq was responsible for the deadlock in the Geneva talks, according to the radio report monitored in Nicosia.

In the Iraqi capital, meanwhile, a Red Cross official said Saturday that Iraq and Iran would start the first large-scale exchange of sick and disabled prisoners next week.

Crown Prince outlines framework to eliminate illiteracy among Muslims

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Saturday called on the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) to come up with a well defined and comprehensive plan for development in order to eradicate illiteracy in the Islamic World before the end of this century.

The Crown Prince was addressing the third conference of ISESCO, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. The gathering is attended by representatives of 37 Islamic states and numerous Arab, Islamic and international organisations.

Crown Prince Hassan, who was delivering the speech on behalf of King Hussein, said development rarely succeeds in illiterate societies, "for such societies are unable to understand the aims of development and deal with modern technology."

Prince Hassan pointed out that some Islamic countries had made outstanding "qualitative and quantitative strides" in the area of education and "100 per cent, 80 per cent and 40 per cent of those eligible for schooling are enrolled in elementary, secondary and higher education respectively."

Prince Hassan said a number of other Islamic countries, however,

are still nowhere near such percentages, particularly with regard to females eligible for schooling of whom only 50 per cent are enrolled in elementary education,

a much lower percentage of 20 per cent in secondary education,

and regrettably less than two per cent in higher education.

Following are excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech:

Working towards deepening the values of Islamic education, science, and culture requires working out a comprehensive plan that takes the following points into consideration:

1. The existence of Islamic, regional, and national institutions which have similar aims but varying abilities. It is high time

that enables it to absorb problems that it faces, "the King told bankers and businessmen gathered at the Central Bank of Jordan.

"The Jordanian society is capable of adjustment and reform due to its socio-economic system

that seeks to correct many tendencies in our society and economy and which depends on an attitude that is capable of understanding the facts of life and the new realities," the King said.

He underlined the need to "be aware on the dangers of continuing to drain and consume our resources at a level that exceeds

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Riyadh, Peking establish first permanent ties

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia and China have agreed to open commercial offices in each other's capitals, the first permanent representation between Riyadh and Peking.

The Chinese embassy in Washington and Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said an agreement was signed Friday by the countries' ambassadors to the United States, Han Xu and Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan.

"In the desire to develop the commercial and economic relations that have existed for a long time between the two people..."

the governments have decided to set up commercial representative offices in their two capitals," SPA said Saturday.

Since the 1930s, when Saudi Arabia broke off relations with the Soviet Union, the kingdom has had no official representation in Eastern bloc countries or China.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are the only Arab countries to have no diplomatic relations with either Moscow or Peking.

The Soviet Union and China have both courted the kingdom in the last few years, sending officials on visits despite Riyadh's firm ties with the United States.

One U.S. analyst said recently that China had increased the number of its Muslims allowed to make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca to between 3,000 and 4,000.

Diplomats said Saudi Arabia sought to extend its relations

beyond the United States because of Washington's support for Israel and the refusal of Congress to agree to sell Riyadh arms.

The kingdom confirmed last month that it bought medium-range missiles from Peking, a move which took Washington by surprise.

Prince Bandar visited Peking last month, raising speculation that the countries would establish diplomatic relations. Diplomats said such a move did not seem likely in the immediate future because of Riyadh's close ties with Taiwan.

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King calls for collective effort towards economic reform

(Continued from page 1)

our national product."

The King said: "I address you today while Jordan is confronting financial challenges... you surely are aware that this is not the first time the country faces such challenges and that Jordan is used to overcoming difficulties which strengthened its resolve and its ability to adjust and take initiative."

The King said the current economic situation "reminds us of Jordan's difficult formula of land and population — the land with its limited resources and the people with the high population growth — which results in exhausting demands on the state."

He said Jordan believed in the principle of encouraging private enterprise and a free economy and had exerted all efforts to invest its natural resources to create the biggest number of job opportunities and to distribute the gains of development on all areas.

Describing the course of Jordan's development, the King said the process was a continuous movement that adjusts itself with new developments and corrects its direction and methodology, whenever there is a need, in order to catch up with contemporary changes.

He said it was time to reconsider "some of the socio-economic concepts that are out of tune with the present reality or present developmental phase, within the foreseeable time span... which requires a comprehensive structural change."

He said the problem of unemployment should not be looked at from the economic angle and its relationship to the rate of growth alone.

Rather, "we must take all the elements affecting it into consideration, because they are structural and related to the lack of balance between the supply and demand for manpower, as well as it being linked to the modern social outlook or professions," he said. "On that basis, the government has taken the initiative to handle this problem through developing its education system and correcting its education process and correcting our developmental needs."

The King said that consumerism had created an imbalance in the economy and that the government had taken steps to tackle the problem through economic, financial and monetary measures and policies aimed at increasing self-reliance and strengthening the local productive structure and narrowing the gap between imports and exports.

He said the government had also embarked on a process to change consumers' attitude and reducing government spending, in addition to depending on the private sector to confront the monetary difficulties.

Following the King's speech, Central Bank Governor Hussein Qasem delivered a statement reviewing Jordan's development and economic indicators since 1952. He said the Kingdom's achievements under the King's leadership had given hope and deepened confidence in the country's ability to overcome difficulties and obstacles.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Cabinet members and other officials were also present at the Central Bank.

The opening of the coins exhibition was part of Jordan's celebrations marking the King's birthday, which falls on Monday.

"What is required from us is to become all in our different capacities, a part and parcel of the reform operation... to interact with it, accept as an inevitability that is imposed by reality and the nature of the present phase and future requirements."

The King concluded his speech, broadcast live on the radio, by expressing appreciation and thanks to the Central Bank of Jordan for its efforts and the high efficiency of its staff and their dedication at work, especially in their recent effort to confront the monetary difficulties.

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Crown Prince outlines framework to eradicate illiteracy

(Continued from page 1)

good number of these institutions face financial problems and are short of well-trained manpower, a situation which requires that they redefine their priorities. This also requires establishing a supervisory responsible authority to help these institutions reevaluate themselves, to crystallise and properly define the Islamic civilisation project, specify the parties bringing it to fruition, and be in charge of making the necessary arrangements for carrying out what the existing institutions are not able to execute.

2. The great challenge during this decade and until the end of this century is securing enough financial resources for purposes of providing the necessary infrastructure such as labs, research equipment, stationery, printing houses, and an Islamic publishing house especially during this stage which is characterised by a lack of financial resources, and a high demand on finance for funding development plans in Islamic countries. This requires the best possible investment and careful preservation of whatever is available.

3. We shall not be able to achieve this unless we give language matters the attention they deserve. Among the priorities, there is the need for Muslims to understand each other since there isn't a single Islamic language read and understood by all Muslims.

It is regrettable that in their meetings, Muslim researchers use European languages, particularly English and French, more than any Islamic language. In order to extricate itself from this dilemma, and by way of training future cadres, it is imperative that an institute be established in one of the Islamic countries with a mission to select a limited number of distinguished Muslim students to study Islamic languages and to be trained in research methodology.

4. There have been many calls for rewriting Islamic history in a new style after it has become the victim of regional and ideological trends, and after the Islamic experience has been cut down to size. This phenomenon requires all of us to attend to it as soon as possible. This can be done by rewriting the Islamic civilisation history raising issues that interact with and address all queries and demands with special emphasis on the Islamic experience. We are called upon to free our school curricula and textbooks from distortion, and obliteration of facts and truth. We are also called upon to provide the Muslim child with a new curriculum that presents the nation's traditions and experience which are based on belief in Allah, respect for human beings, and for human thought.

5. To look to the future with an Islamic vision requires us once more to coordinate between scientific institutions in the Muslim World, and to link together the national networks of information to guarantee the flow of data and provide ways and means for their utilisation. To achieve this, Muslim and non-Muslim experts must be attracted. When this objective is

realised the Muslim World will be able to free itself from dependency in information, thereby correcting the distorted image of the Muslims and will free ourselves from hostile hegemony over the media in the world. Then we will be able, albeit on a limited scale, to contribute to the modification of the present structure of world communication which lacks balance in the exchange of information between Muslim countries and some information centres in other countries of the world.

6. At present the Muslim World witnesses its heyday of writing and publication particularly in Islamic fields of knowledge. But, upon further scrutiny, we find differences in quality and level because of the absence of intellectual and critical Islamic scholars that objectively review and assess what is written and published. The appeal, therefore, is made to activate criticism, correction, and objective evaluation in the Muslim World.

7. All Muslim countries have shown interest in science and technology. Successive summit conferences emphasised this point and set up ministerial committees to support the idea of scientific and technological cooperation which has given rise to a number of institutions such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) which achieves we are celebrating today, the Islamic Institute for Science, Technology and Development, the Islamic Academy of Science, and other specialised institutions. Yet we find many of our states without scientific and technological policies and strategies, and even those countries that have such institutions do not have enough infrastructure. They still

need to exert considerable effort to benefit from the experience of others. Some sectors of society are still to be convinced that they should adopt and accept science, although Islam respects reason and honours learning. In fact no heavenly Book mentioned reason, learning and understanding more than the Koran did.

We are all invited to harness our entire intellectual, scientific and technical capacities for the service of development in our countries for we as Muslims, can play a role and shoulder responsibility towards our peoples and towards other nations.

Following the Crown Prince's speech, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Thouran Hindawi thanked His Majesty for his patronage of the conference. "In Al Hussein's Amman, Arab unity was reached only yesterday, and today we are seeking Islamic unity here, all this is a result of the wise Jordanian Hashemite leadership," Hindawi said.

He welcomed the participants in the conference to Jordan and thanked Prince Hassan for his patronage of the conference.

The head of the Executive Council of IRESCO, Ahmad ibn Hamad Al Otaibi, also thanked King Hussein and the Crown Prince for their patronage of the conference.

Otaibi referred to the achievements of IRESCO over the past three years and said he hoped that plans for the coming three years "will strengthen the Islamic identity."

He also expressed his "surprise over some countries' lax attitude towards paying their pledges to IRESCO" at a time where all efforts should give priority to joint Islamic work.

He also pledged that the station would convey a genuine message based on truth and responsibility and that it would sincerely relay the nation's culture in the fields of literature and music.

He also said that the station would create an amicable and delightful atmosphere in all that would be broadcast.

The radio station's director also delivered a speech welcoming the King and said the station "is designed to serve the Jordanian citizen inside and outside the homeland, to link the expatriates to their homeland, and to convey the voice of Jordan — the voice of justice, of the true word, and of the noble position — to various parts of the world."

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Rashed ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker, ministers, senior civilians and military officials, the Swiss ambassador in Amman, and a number of invited guests.

"The role of Turkey is very

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Yemen's congress opens 4th session

SANA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh opened the fourth session of North Yemen's general people's congress Saturday, diplomats said. About 1,000 delegates representing 24,000 members are attending the four-day session of the congress, a mass political organisation which has met every two years since 1982. North Yemen began commercial oil exports last year and elected a new parliament this year. Diplomats said a document to be issued at the end of the congress would guide the government in its foreign and domestic policy.

Iraq frees Swedish businessman

STOCKHOLM (R) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Ma'ruf said Saturday his government had released a Swedish businessman jailed for life in Baghdad. The businessman, Wolfgang Granlund, was arrested in January last year and convicted of espionage and currency violations. "I have the pleasure to announce that Mr. Granlund... has been released and handed over to the Swedish embassy in Baghdad," Ma'ruf said in a statement just before the end of a three-day working visit. He said Granlund was granted a special amnesty by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Lebanese Forces' press-gangs Indians

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's rightist militiamen are press-ganging Indian nationals in east Beirut to fill sandbags and build barricades along their front lines, diplomats said Friday. They said the Lebanese Forces militia had forced about 200 Indians over the past year to work for it for free in different parts of the country. A militia spokesman denied the charge, but one diplomat told Reuters: "Most of them (the Indians) disappear for weeks, then come back. They do the dirty job for the militiamen for free."

Bomb explodes in front of Novosti office

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb thrown from a passing car exploded in front of the Soviet Novosti news agency building in the Lebanese capital, police said Saturday. No one was injured in the explosion which shattered glass in nearby buildings and damaged parked cars, they said. The five-kilogramme bomb was thrown from a car being driven past the 10 storey building in west Beirut late Friday night. Novosti employees refused to comment.

ICRC asked to try to meet Lahd assailant

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Foreign Ministry Saturday asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to request a meeting with the woman that shot and wounded the commander of a pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon. The ministry also said Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhouri, was asked to "seek help from international circles to exert pressure on Israel to treat Soha Fawaz Bishara in accordance with the Geneva conventions."

PNC session opens in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat said after his cards talk that "we are still talking about 242." He did not elaborate.

Arafat reminded reporters that Palestinian national rights were already enshrined in the General Assembly's Resolution 236 of 1974, which has played an increasingly prominent role in Palestinian statehood over the past few weeks.

This document "reaffirms the inalienable rights of Palestinian people in Palestine... to self-determination... national independence and sovereignty."

Arafat has been holding his cards close to his chest in the run-up to the meeting of the PNC, refusing to say what he wants to say in the parallel political statement.

"I cannot mention this as it would not be democratic. We are putting options to the PNC they can choose what they like," he told reporters Saturday.

They are to meet again in New York Nov. 22-23 to review the talks with Perez de Cuellar.

Dr. Vassilios Lysandrides, the president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, said Friday in Nicosia that the U.N.-sponsored talks "are leading nowhere because they tackle the Cyprus problem as an intercommunal difference."

He also contended that the talks were being controlled by Turkey through Denktaş.

"Whether the talks will lead somewhere or nowhere we simply don't know at this moment," Vassilios said at a Rome news conference following two days of talks with Italian officials. "I started these talks with all the good will in the world and I want to see these talks leading somewhere. I want to see these talks leading to a solution of the Cyprus problem. And this is what I am striving for."

The Turkish Cypriot leader insists that a settlement must be based on a loose federation with the two communities living separately. He also wants the Turkish troops to remain as a guarantee of the Turkish Cypriots' safety.

Iran tempers isolation policy

But Parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed last week that it was not wrong to seek any kind of foreign help, as long as Iranian sovereignty was not compromised.

Iran already is receiving a positive response to overtures towards Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

On a visit to Kuwait last week Iranian Foreign Under-Secretary Ali Mohammad Beshtani spoke of "a new chapter" beginning in bilateral relations, and also said that Tehran was ready to restore relations with Saudi Arabia.

Britain and Iran agreed in Vienna Wednesday to gradually normalise relations, building up to an exchange of ambassadors in the next six months. Iran had frequently denounced Britain as an enemy during the year-long rift.

But King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said Thursday his country recognises Iran as a centre of Islam and a strong regional power.

Fahd added that he had called off a Saudi media campaign against Iran.

But there is still no sign of any possible restoration of ties between Iran and the United States, many also are being improved.

At the same time, Iran is seeking to boost relations with the Soviet Union, whose senior foreign under-secretary, Alexander Bessmennikov, is visiting Tehran this week.

Iran badly needs foreign capital to rebuild its economy, shattered by the eight-year war with Iraq, although its leaders say that revolutionary ideals cannot be jeopardised by opening up to foreign imports and companies.

Vassiliou: Too early to judge success of talks



George Vassiliou

PNC session opens in Algiers

(Continued from page 1)

Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The medium-wave transmitter with 1,000-kilowatt power covers the Gulf region, Iraq, North Africa at night while the long-wave transmitter, which has 1,200-kilowatt power, provides local coverage and areas around Jordan day and night.

Following King Hussein's speech, Information Minister Hani Al Khatib thanked His Majesty for his patronage of the conference.

The achievements are attributed to the will of your sincere Jordanian Arab people who transformed, under your leadership, to an honourable model.

The achievements covered every aspect of life in a short time, he said, and Jordan's "development experience became an example and a source of pride for every Jordanian citizen."

The new station, Khasab, pledged,

"will fulfil its role in the same spirit and determination you expect it to be."

He added that the station would stress the importance of upholding virtues, religion and heritage, and to fight extravagance and luxurious life.

He also pledged that the station

would convey a genuine message

based on truth and responsibility

and that it would sincerely relay the nation's culture in the fields of literature and music.

He also said that the station would create an amicable and delightful atmosphere in all that would be broadcast.

The radio station's director also delivered a speech welcoming the King and said the station "is designed to serve the Jordanian citizen inside and outside the homeland, to link the expatriates to their homeland, and to convey the voice of Jordan — the voice of justice, of the true word, and of the noble position — to various parts of the world."



Al Hussein opens King Abdullah Complex



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday cuts the ribbon to formally inaugurate the King Abdullah Ibn Al Wadi Saqra District (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Complex and Public Park at Wadi Saqra District was formally opened Saturday by His Majesty King Hussein in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Princess Alia, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other senior government and military officials.

The opening of the complex was part of Greater Amman Municipality's celebrations of King Hussein's birthday and is named after the founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, in recognition of his endeavours to serve his nation. Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said in a speech at the outset of the ceremony.

Rawabdeh described the complex as a cultural landmark and serves as a centre for recreation and culture for Amman citizens and visitors to Jordan.

Mr. Sami Al Rashid, director general of the Amman Development Corporation (ADC) which built the complex, delivered another speech, outlining King Hussein's long endeavours to serve his people.

Rashid reviewed the different projects carried out by the ADC since its establishment and de-

scribed the complex as another important landmark reflecting Jordan's development.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the King presented medals to a number of engineers emulated by the ADC in recognition of their efforts.

The 82,000-square-metre complex offers a variety of attractions

which include cultural, recreational and sports services befitting the Jordanian people and visitors to the Kingdom.

The complex has 62 stores with access from a number of directions, an amphitheatre for plays or other performances, a car park for 600 vehicles, a children's open theatre, a public garden for which

entry will be free of charge, in addition to a recreation centre which includes a children's garden and an aquarium.

According to the ADC director, the project cost JD 7 million but returns from stores and other facilities will bring in at least seven per cent of the cost annually.

King Hussein approves amendment to conscription law

Jordanians residing abroad can postpone military service

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens required to do military service are now allowed to postpone this service until the age of 37 provided they acquire a valid work and residence permit from another country where they are employed or wish to get employment.

The announcement was made by Brigadier Mahmoud Abdul Karim Al Balawneh director of the Armed Forces Conscription Department who said that the amendment to the conscription law was endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein and approved by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in his capacity as minister of defence, and also by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Al Balawneh said that the new amendment is bound to enable Jordanians to offer more contributions and services to the country's educational and economic projects.

According to Al Balawneh, all Jordanians who are required to do military service and had left the country before or after Jan. 1, 1976, and of those wishing to travel abroad for work can put off their military service.

Al Balawneh said that once citizens, who left the country after Jan. 1, 1976, reach the age of 37 they should return to Jordan to do their national service before they are 40 years of age.

Those who left the country after Jan. 1, 1976 and before Oct. 17, 1988 can continue in their present employment but should report to the conscription department for re-adjustment of their position. They can postpone their military service until they reach the age of 37.

As to those wishing to get employment abroad from now on, Al Balawneh noted, they can also postpone their military service under the above mentioned regulations, and can return for a four-month visit to Jordan every year.

Al Balawneh said that those failing to report for conscription service before they reach 40 will be imprisoned for three years.

As to the citizens from the West Bank, Al Balawneh said they will be subject to a new set of regulations agreed on following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

Al Balawneh noted that those carrying green cards and temporary passports will have their conscription book cancelled, but those who carry yellow cards and permanent passports will be treated as Jordanian citizens.

Those wishing to replace green



Brig. Mahmoud Abdul Karim Al Balawneh

cards with yellow ones can do that upon approval from the Followup and Inspection Department of the Armed Forces.

He said that West Bank citizens living abroad before June 19, 1983 should report to the Conscription Department upon his return to Jordan within 30 days so as to get proper permits to return to the West Bank.

All conscripts who violate the law will have their military service extended but will not be fined as it was practiced previously, Al Balawneh noted.

According to Al Balawneh, citizens with yellow cards cannot conduct any business with government departments unless they produce a three-year valid Israeli permit and those carrying green cards will have to get the Conscription Department approval before their business is conducted through the government departments.

He said that West Bank citizens should report to the Conscription Department upon his return to Jordan within 30 days so as to get proper permits to return to the West Bank.

All conscripts who violate the law will have their military service extended but will not be fined as it was practiced previously, Al Balawneh noted.

He said that any East Bank Jordanian living in the West Bank will be treated on equal footing as Palestinians carrying yellow cards with regard to the conscription service.

Hamzeh returns from Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Libya have agreed to boost bilateral cooperation in the field of health in such a way that serves their common interests.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who concluded an official visit to Libya, signed the minutes of a health agreement with his Libyan counterpart Dr. Mustafa Al Zaidi.

The minutes of the agreement define spheres of mutual cooperation and covers basic medical health.

It also deals with exchange of expertise, and sets the basis for cooperation and for benefiting from technical cooperation between the two countries. It also deals with exchange of information on laws and regulations pertaining to various medical spheres.

Hamzeh said that during his five-day visit to Libya, he met with a number of Jordanian doctors working there. He said the Libyan officials spoke highly of the Jordanian doctors' high standard and reputation.

There are 72 Jordanian doctors currently working in Libya in addition to 59 other doctors who recently signed contracts to work there.

Ambassador conveys Jordan's greetings to Maldives leader

ISLAMABAD (Petra) — Jordan's new Ambassador to Pakistan, Fakhrul Abu Taleb, has conveyed to the Maldives president greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people on his re-appointment to his post for the third time.

The message came in the wake of an unsuccessful attempt by foreign mercenaries to thwart the

Jordanian people for further progress.

Meanwhile, in Amman Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri received Saturday the credentials of Mr. Mohammad Jaseem Ali as new Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Jordan.

Ali replaces Abdullah Al Shurafa who had ended his tour of duty in Amman

Queen Noor to attend charity concert Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will attend a concert next Saturday organised by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

The concert, which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, will feature three Jordanian artists and a musician from West Germany, and will present famous musical works.

A meeting was held at the society headquarters in Amman

on Saturday to discuss arrangements for the concert which has been organised in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian and the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

The proceeds of the concert, which will be part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, are expected to benefit the society's activities and programmes to provide care for the physically handicapped children in the Kingdom.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Jordan Times is published weekly by the Jordan Press Foundation, Amman, Jordan.

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALIDirector General:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

A catalyst for achievement

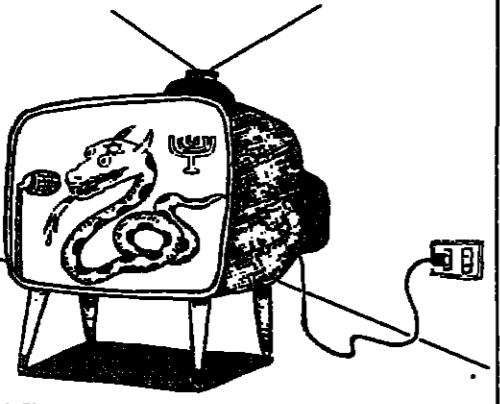
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech Saturday on the occasion of the opening of the Coin Museum at the Central Bank underscored the fact that Jordan's economic and fiscal difficulties in these times constitute a national challenge which Jordanians will ultimately be able to surmount.

His Majesty also reminded the nation that this is not the first time that the Hashemite Kingdom has encountered hardships. Hardships, His Majesty stated, have always played the role of a catalyst to strengthen the nation's resolve and determination to move ahead with added vigour and dynamism. Against this backdrop, His Majesty told the country, the belt tightening measures introduced by the government recently to offset fiscal and economic difficulties are by no means transitory steps.

Rather, His Majesty emphasised, such corrective measures are part and parcel of a broad policy with long range objectives in which all of us are invited to participate and support. If we succeed, as we must, in our endeavours, we would in effect consolidate and strengthen our credibility worldwide. As His Majesty wisely reminded the nation, Jordan's credibility in the Arab World and abroad is, as it has always been, one of our prime assets which has helped us wage our struggles on many fronts.

We can see in the words of His Majesty the added assurances that the country needs at this critical stage in our development. We have become accustomed, and rightly so, to His Majesty's personal confidence-building words whenever we face unusual political or economic conditions like the ones we are experiencing nowadays. There is no doubt that the period of readjustment that is being forced upon us will become more comprehensible and acceptable now that we are assured that the new policy guidelines of the country, government and people, will make us more self-reliant.

To be sure, the lessons of self-reliance are perhaps the most honourable lessons of all that any people or country can learn and achieve.



Zaki - Sawt Al Shaab

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's Gulf tour which lasted several days during which the monarch discussed the Middle East issue, the Gulf situation and other issues of common concern to the Arab Nation. The Jordanian family takes pride in the King's endeavours to bolster joint Arab action, an effort which is required under the current circumstances to consolidate the Arab Nation's gains and to boost its strength in the face of common challenges, the paper noted. This Kingdom which continues to struggle to fend off external dangers is currently involved as well in measures designed to strengthen the national economy, an effort that requires the participation of all Jordanian citizens, the paper added. It said there was a great need for both political and economic efforts to promote Jordan's stance within the Arab World and help the country withstand external threats.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments Saturday on the Palestine National Council's session in Algiers, describing it as the most significant of all the previous sessions. The council, which is in effect a parliament for the Palestinian people is being held at a time when people are involved in an uprising for their freedom, the writer Ibrahim Sakkijha notes. This session, the 19th of its kind by the council will be remembered in history as that which ushered in the emergence of the Palestinian independent state and a step that would logically be followed by the creation of institutions that will help the new state to be recognised by various nations. The 19th session's importance is tantamount to that of the first session held in Jerusalem in 1964 when the creation of the Palestine National Council was first declared, says the writer. There is no doubt, he adds, that the new state will be confronted with obstacles and difficulties; but through perseverance and dedication and with backing from the Arab states in general and Jordan in particular the Palestinian state should be able to forge ahead and become an organised reality.

Al Dustour daily also commented on the King's tour in the Gulf which was part of Jordan's endeavours to bolster cooperation among Arab states. The King continues to exert efforts at all levels to serve Jordan and the Arab Nation, and is now involved in intensive contacts with Arab heads of state in view of the grave dangers posed to this nation. The King's talks in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman centred on the situation in the Gulf, the crisis in Lebanon and the Middle East problem among various other Arab affairs, the paper noted.

Sawt Al Shaab daily dwelt on the same subject and said that the tour was intended as part of Jordan's on-going process of exchanging views with the Arab heads of state and maintain the momentum of the Amman summit meeting of last year. King Hussein, it said, is keen on arriving at a unified Arab stance on the various subjects for discussion at the coming summit meeting. The challenges that the Arabs are facing at the moment are so grave that only an Arab summit can deal with them effectively, the paper noted.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Time to correct the imbalances

ECONOMIC difficulties are normal and not always bad. Many such difficulties serve as an invitation for change, and correction of past trends.

The current economic situation in Jordan could be the start of disappointment for some, but it could also be a chance to adjust imbalances within the Jordanian economy, and reorganise it, to pave the way for a new course towards progress and growth, from a solid base, rather than building on shifting sands.

The basic reason behind the temporary current economic crisis is the accumulating imbalances in the structure of the Jordanian economy, which call for urgent adjustment. Adjustment can be brought about either as a planned target to avert foreseen problems, or as an inevitability. Unfortunately, we have missed the opportunity to take action during the past five years, and finally found ourselves compelled to act.

Imbalances can be found in many aspects of the Jordanian economy.

The public expenditure of the central government is as high as 70 per cent of the gross domestic product. Domestic revenue, despite the very high tax, does not cover more than 85 per cent of recurring expenses. The foreign assets of the Central Bank of Jordan were allowed to drop to a low level. The volume of commodity imports are three times the volume of national exports. The labour force is much higher than the job opportunities available in the country. The population is too high relative to the limited natural resources. The Jordan dinar was artificially overvalued by some 20 per cent of its real value. Finally Jordanians were leading a standard of life, way above their realistic means; expenditure on consumption and investment exceeded the gross national product by some 33 per cent.

These and other imbalances must be corrected and adjusted. At minimum, the economic situation should be steadied at a certain level. The imbalances were not difficult to detect and identify. They

were always with us especially since the beginning of the '80s. Some officials knew the facts as early as 1982 but claimed that talking about them in public would affect confidence.

Now that there is no pretence that what we are facing is a temporary and normal Third World crisis, it is time to rebuild trust and credibility. Without credibility, the economy could not be managed with success. Even correct measures and policies have little chance of success unless people adopt them, and take them seriously.

While rebuilding credibility, we should formulate integrated packages of policies and measures. Certain features of the programme may be reduction of public sector spending, narrowing budget deficit, rescheduling external commitments, enlarging the tax base and cancelling meaningless exemptions, rebuilding foreign reserves, restoring real legal stability, respecting the law, and last, but not least, encouraging and accepting more involvement in policy-making.

New hope for clean water in Third World

By Rosemary Laurent
Reuters

THE HAGUE — The way to cleaner water in the world's poorest countries may be inexpensive and old-fashioned.

Pumps that are hand-operated rather than electrified, for example, could be a major weapon in the fight against disease-infested drinking water in the Third World, aid workers say.

The possibility that the way forward does not necessarily lie in costly high technology has given new hope to policy makers as a 10-year United Nations campaign for clean water draws to a close without achieving its goal.

"Thirty five thousand people, most of them children, die every day all over the world from water-related diseases," said Sandy Rosival, a leading delegate at international talks here last week on drinking water and sanitation in the Third World.

"That's like four jumbo jets crashing every hour... it's not only unacceptable, it's immoral," said Rosival, an American who heads the U.N. water and sanitation decade launched in 1980.

But while the U.N. effort had failed in its goal of giving clean water to all by 1990, important lessons had been learned which enabled experts to reassess their future strategy.

In the past, policy makers and technicians in Third World countries tended to seek high-technology answers dependent on heavy financial backing from central governments.

But trials showed for example that cheap, locally produced manual pumps met water needs more effectively than complex electrified systems.

"It's taken us eight years to realise that the only systems that can really work must be set up and maintained by the community they serve," Rosival told Reuters in an interview.

"When an electric pump breaks down it may take six months to get spare parts to some remote villages, so people just go back to drinking from rivers and water holes," Rosival said.

Other examples of low-cost, easy-to-use technology included hand-built latrines and the use of sand to filter water.

"We have not yet made a major breakthrough in terms of giving people a better service, but we have learnt the key to future

progress lies in low-cost, locally funded projects," he said.

He said such affordable solutions were also essential as Western nations were unlikely to boost their meagre 15-per-cent contribution to total investment in Third World water supply.

"At the start of the decade we estimated it would require \$600 billion to ensure an adequate water and sanitation service to all Third World towns and villages," Rosival noted.

"Now we realise, using appropriate low-cost technology we can provide the same service for \$200 billion," he added.

Tanzanian water ministry official Nerei Msimbira, one of 60 aid agency and government representatives attending the talks, agreed the main achievement of the last eight years was a change in attitude.

"Before the eighties I would never have thought of introducing such a simple thing as a hand pump... Now people in my country are crying out for them," said Msimbira, adding that technicians used to believe sophisticated piped systems were the answer to Tanzania's chronic water supply problems.

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Tanzanian water ministry official Nerei Msimbira, one of 60 aid agency and government representatives attending the talks, agreed the main achievement of the last eight years was a change in attitude.

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But while the U.N. effort had failed in its goal of giving clean water to all by 1990, important lessons had been learned which enabled experts to reassess their future strategy.

In the past, policy makers and technicians in Third World countries tended to seek high-technology answers dependent on heavy financial backing from central governments.

But trials showed for example that cheap, locally produced manual pumps met water needs more effectively than complex electrified systems.

"It's taken us eight years to realise that the only systems that can really work must be set up and maintained by the community they serve," Rosival told Reuters in an interview.

"When an electric pump breaks down it may take six months to get spare parts to some remote villages, so people just go back to drinking from rivers and water holes," Rosival said.

Other examples of low-cost, easy-to-use technology included hand-built latrines and the use of sand to filter water.

"We have not yet made a major breakthrough in terms of giving people a better service, but we have learnt the key to future

progress lies in low-cost, locally funded projects," he said.

He said such affordable solutions were also essential as Western nations were unlikely to boost their meagre 15-per-cent contribution to total investment in Third World water supply.

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EN BREF

Le retour du jeudi

Après une incursion au dimanche et des visées impérialistes sur le mercredi, Le Jourdain a fini par abandonner le nomadisme et réintègre son bercail du jeudi dès cette semaine. Toutes autres rumeurs concernant son jour de parution doivent être tenues pour intoxiquées. A jeudi, donc.

Algérie: sang neuf

Kasdi Merbah a été nommé à la tête d'un nouveau gouvernement algérien le 5 novembre, quarante-huit heures après les 92% de "oui" recueillis lors du référendum sur la séparation des pouvoirs entre le chef de l'Etat et le premier ministre. Il a formé un gouvernement de "techniciens" excluant les témoins de l'ancien cabinet, afin de mener un programme de réformes et d'ouverture. "Réputé 'intègre, travailleur et efficace', M. Merbah a occupé différents postes ministériels depuis 1980. Il est également agréé par la population de Kabylie, dont il est originaire.

Référendum: "Oui" évasif

Le référendum sur l'avenir de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, proposant une période transitoire de dix ans puis un scrutin d'autodétermination en 1998, a recueilli 80% de "oui". Mais deux Français sur trois ont boudé les urnes: on enregistrait un taux d'abstention record de 63%, camouflé pour Michel Rocard qui avait présidé à la signature des accords entre indépendantistes et loyalistes. En Nouvelle-Calédonie, la participation a été de 63% et le "oui" l'a emporté à 57%. A Nouméa, fier caldoche, 60% des électeurs ont dit "non", fragilisant le succès relatif du référendum.

Amman — Taux de participation: 38%. Sur 47 suffrages exprimés, 24 "oui" (51%) et 23 "non" (49%).

Accident ferroviaire: 10 morts

Neuf ouvriers du rail et un voyageur ont été tués dans la collision d'un train express et d'un véhicule de maintenance, le 7 novembre près d'Épernay, à la suite d'une erreur d'aiguillage. Cet accident est le quatrième du genre en France cette année et porte le nombre total de victimes à 70 morts et plus de 180 blessés dans des accidents ferroviaires en 1988. Le plus meurtrier ayant eu lieu le 27 juin en gare de Lyon à Paris, où 56 voyageurs avaient trouvé la mort dans une collision. Un mois plus tard, un nouvel accident avait entraîné la démission du président de la SNCF, Philippe Rouvillois, remplacé par Jean Costet.

Charles et Diana à Paris

Le prince Charles et Lady Di ont effectué du 7 au 12 novembre une visite officielle en France, largement protocolaire et symbolique, mais particulièrement brillante. La France républicaine n'a pas lésiné pour accueillir dans le faste le futur souverain et son épouse, avec réceptions à l'Elysée et au château de Chambord. Lady Di a fait sensation en arborant un ensemble Chanel, alors qu'elle est normalement tenue à s'habiller en Angleterre pour ses déplacements officiels. Et, pour les cérémonies du 11 novembre, on a vu pour la première fois depuis 1815 défilé sur les Champs-Elysées un détachement des Welsh guards, dont le prince est colonel, avec bonnets à poils et tuniques rouges.

La marine française à Aqaba.

L'amiral Labouer, commandant en chef des forces françaises dans l'océan indien, a rencontré le 12 novembre à Amman le maréchal Zeid Ibo Shaker, commandant en chef des forces armées jordaniennes. Le navire de commandement de la marine française effectuait une escale de courtoisie dans le port d'Aqaba.

Le saviez-vous?

Point ne sifflera

Il est très inconvenant de siffler en passant devant une mosquée. Ce qui chez les Occidentaux est synonyme de bonne humeur passe en effet chez beaucoup de musulmans pour un appel au démon. Cette interprétation, qui ne trouve aucun fondement écrit dans le Coran, est néanmoins courante. Et le gai sifflement du vendredi qui entonne cadiquement l'air du "Pont de la rivière Kwaï", en passant à proximité d'un lieu de culte se verrà fusiller du regard comme ce serait le seul qui pénétrait dans une église en chantant "Viens Poupoile."

Leur nombre a triplé en moins de dix ans

Amman: mosquées-champignons

Si beaucoup d'argent privé a été investi ces dernières années dans la construction de mosquées, on a oublié d'y mettre du goût, estiment beaucoup d'architectes à Amman. Ils se réfèrent à la simplicité des premiers lieux de prière pour imaginer les mosquées de demain. Mais les meilleurs travaillent pour l'étranger. Nul n'est prophète en son pays.

"Partout est la mosquée." Ce proverbe musulman ne signifie pas que les mosquées sont à tous les coins de rue, mais plutôt que n'importe quel endroit fait l'affaire, pourvu qu'on y prie. A Amman cependant, on serait tenté d'utiliser la première définition: depuis une dizaine d'années, la capitale semble gagnée par une épidémie de construction dévote. Amman a vu tripler son record de mosquées depuis 1980, alors que la population s'accroissait de 20% dans la même période. On en compte aujourd'hui 435, pour 1,2 millions d'habitants, selon le ministère des affaires religieuses.

Samir Attani, responsable culturel au ministère, y voit la conjonction de deux éléments: d'une part un renouveau de la foi, qui on observe dans tout le monde islamique (les jeunes, en particulier, redécouvrent la prière) et d'autre part l'enrichissement des Jordaniens consécutif au boom pétrolier. "Les gens riches, en particulier quand ils ont vécu à l'étranger, ont souvent ressenti un malaise du trop-plein matériel et se sont tournés vers la religion," dit-il. Le résultat est visible à l'œil nu: 99% des mosquées d'Amman ont été bâties avec des fonds privés. Le ministère de l'Awqaf se charge ensuite de rémunérer le personnel religieux et d'assurer l'entretien des bâtiments.

L'Etat encourage du reste ces initiatives privées en exemptant le bailleur de fonds d'impôts sur les revenus consacrés à la construction d'une mosquée. Les minarets poussent ainsi en forêts dans la capitale, surtout dans les quartiers neufs surgis du désert depuis 1980. Mais à l'inverse des prodiges d'imagination déployés dans la construction de bâtiments d'habitation, les mosquées font ici figure de parents pauvres de l'architecture. La richesse des matériaux prime souvent sur le souci de cohérence esthétique et culturelle, selon la plupart des architectes rencontrés.

Incohérences

Premier constat, il y a peu de grandes mosquées à Amman, garnie d'une myriade de lieux de cultes aux dimensions réduites. Le coût de construction n'est sans doute pas pour rien: selon Zahi Khayyat, qui en a conçu plusieurs à Amman, l'érection d'une mosquée revient facilement à 600.000 dinars, voire plus, si l'on veut la parer de marbre et autres lambris sculptés. Même avec des préventions plus modestes, on peut difficilement descendre au-dessous de 100.000 dinars. Et à ce prix-là, le lieu sacré ressemblera à une maison ordinaire flanquée d'un bluble et d'un minaret.

Jafer Toukan, architecte réputé de la capitale, estime que la plupart de ces "mosquées-champignons" sont dessinées en dépit du bon sens, voire pas dessinées du tout: "Certains donateurs font eux-mêmes leurs plans, qu'ils font ensuite signer par un architecte.

L'ouverture de la mosquée,

prévue initialement le 31 octobre, a été retardée jusqu'au 7 avril, premier jour du Ramadan. Mais d'ores et déjà, les vues aériennes télévisées de la capitale privilégié son dôme, comme on s'attarde à Paris sur la Tour Eiffel. Avec 35 m de haut, il est le plus élevé de tout le Proche-Orient (10 m de plus que le dôme doré d'Al Aqsa). Jan Cejka, architecte tchèque auteur du monument, s'est d'ailleurs inspiré du lieu saint de Jérusalem en dessinant King Abdallah. Le complexe inclut également une école coranique et un centre culturel islamique,

Muezzins du bout des ondes

Il est bien fini, le temps où cinq fois par jour, le muezzin appelle les fidèles à la prière du haut de son minaret. Depuis longtemps, sa voix est amplifiée et diffusée par un haut-parleur fixé au sommet du minaret. Où encore, on remplace le muezzin par un enregistrement sur bande. Mais il y a mieux: depuis dix ans à Amman, la plupart des mosquées sont reliées par les ondes à la grande mosquée Abu-Darwish d'Asrafiyah, située au sommet d'une colline. Elle est équipée d'un studio et d'un émetteur radio qui, cinq fois par jour, diffuse les appels à la prière lues au micro par le muezzin-speaker.

Ainsi, en principe, toutes les mosquées diffusent au même moment la même émission, ce qui évite les cacophonies. Mais il arrive que certains muezzins, dont la mission est d'"allumer le poste" au bon moment, oublient de le faire à temps. Dans ce cas, ils téléphonent à Ashrafieh et demandent une rémission, avec cinq minutes de décalage. En avril prochain, la mosquée King Abdallah devrait remplacer la mosquée Abu-Darwish dans cette fonction émettrice.

Au total, Rasem Badran pense qu'on peut difficilement marier le triomphalisme d'une mosquée "de prestige" et le dépouillement humble enseigné par le Coran. Préférant la sobriété des mosquées du Golfe à la riche ornementation de celles d'Afrique du Nord ou de Damas, il insiste sur ce point: "C'est à Dieu qu'on s'adresse en priant, la mosquée n'est qu'un vecteur, qui doit se faire discret pour ne pas détourner l'attention de l'essentiel. Il vaut mieux investir de l'argent dans une école que dans la décoration d'une mosquée."

Sacrilège? Rasem Badran appuie son point de vue sur l'exemple de la première mosquée de l'histoire, à Médine, utilisée par le prophète. Il s'agissait d'une simple enceinte rectangulaire couverte d'un auvent à une extrémité. Et il rappelle cette anecdote dont il fut le témoin lors d'une cérémonie officielle dans le stade de Riyad: "Vers 22h00, l'heure de la prière est venue; les spectateurs sont alors tout simplement descendus des gradins pour prier au centre du stade, par milliers." Simplicité et horizontalité sont les lignes directrices de la prière.

En ce sens, Akram Abu-Hamdan, architecte, conteste la véracité systématique des mosquées d'Amman, tirées vers le haut par leurs bulbes et leurs minarets. Celle qu'il construit actuellement à Jeddah (Arabie saoudite) est rythmée par les lignes horizontales, "car c'est en ligne que l'on prie, dans un esprit égalitaire." Sa mosquée, à l'inverse des bâtiments compacts rencontrés à et là, est ouverte sur l'extérieur par une plaza, qu'il veut lieu de rencontre, facilement pénétrable depuis la rue. Et le minaret, court parallépipède de verre, est réduit à son expression la plus symbolique. On respire.

A bas les minarets

Mais quid de la tradition? Akram Abu-Hamdan sourit. "Depuis la mosquée de Médine, la tradition islamique est faite d'une collection d'influences: le bulbe est inspiré des églises byzantines, symbolisant le toit de l'univers. Le rotonde d'Al Aqsa elle-même est héritée de l'architecture romaine. Les dômes ont été généralisés par Simeon le magnifique (Turquie, 16ème siècle), qui subissait l'influence du gigantisme des caïdheras chrétiennes. Tous ces toits ronds n'ont pas vraiment de raison d'être; ils suggèrent la centralité, alors que la directionnalité vers La Mecque est l'élément le plus important d'une mosquée. Et qu'est-ce qu'une tradition si elle n'est pas enrichie d'idées nouvelles?"

Aucune mosquée d'Amman ne

trouve grâce aux yeux de cet architecte futuriste. "Avec autant d'argent investi, on devrait avoir construit plusieurs chef-d'œuvre. Mais non. On empile un dôme et un minaret, et le tour est joué". Il souligne du reste la démesure de ces minarets par rapport à la taille des bâtiments, comme si leur hauteur était proportionnelle à la foi du constructeur. Alors que l'usage des micros, selon lui, les rend pratiquement caduques. Tel n'est pas l'avis de Zahi Khayyat, qui met l'accent sur la fonction visuelle, et non seulement auditive, des minarets. "Oh qu'on se trouve dans la ville, il est bon de pouvoir au premier coup d'œil localiser la mosquée la plus proche, quand on veut prier," dit-il. Mais après tout, "la mosquée est partout" et peu importe l'endroit, pourvu que l'on y prie...

François Ducroux

serait plébiscité par les Jordaniens...

Toutefois, deux courtes remarques freinent un peu cet épanchement pro-républicain, réveillant l'inquiétude latente des Arabes vis-à-vis de la paix dans la région: "Pourquoi nous intéressons-nous à ces élections? Nous savons que quel que soit le vainqueur, cela ne changera rien à la situation dans notre région, à savoir: un soutien solide des Américains aux Israéliens et peu d'aide aux Arabes; rien ne va changer." L'intervention jette un froid.

Plus tard dans la nuit, l'excitation fait place aux bâillements. Le public se clarifie, on regarde d'un œil vif la retransmission de la soirée électorale de la chaîne ABC sur grand écran. Le va-et-vient des curieux se fait plus discret. Mais le café est toujours chaud. Et à 2h00 du matin, quand tombent les premiers résultats sur six Etats — 78 voix pour Bush contre zéro à son adversaire —, l'assistance ne bronche pas. Était-ce l'indifférence? Ou alors le café était trop léger... très américain.

Raja Ben Ayed

Importations: ceinture

Limitation des importations, taxes en hausses sur une série de produits importés, le gouvernement jordanien a annoncé la semaine dernière une série de mesures visant à soutenir l'économie nationale, suite au glissement du dinar, qui a perdu plus de 30% de sa valeur face au dollar depuis le début de l'année.

A compter du 6 novembre 1988 et jusqu'au 31 décembre 1989, sont interdites les importations des produits suivants: 70% sur les parfums et atomiseurs (contre 33% auparavant), cosmétiques (100% contre 73%), cigarettes (5 JD/kg contre 4 JD/kg), crème à raser et dentifrice (60% contre 40 et 55%), entre autres.

Les droits de douanes ont également été augmentés pour les produits importés suivants:

nouvelles taxes: 10% sur les notes de restaurants d'au moins quatre étoiles, 3% de hausse sur les billets d'avions pour l'étranger vendus en Jordanie, augmentation de la taxe de départ (ex. par avion: 10 dinars pour les non-Jordaniens, 25 dinar pour les locaux).

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Les produits pharmaceutiques importés vendus dans les pharmacies privées augmentent pour leur part de 30%.

FIGURE

L'histoire rectifiée

L'historien jordanien Suleiman Moussa s'est vu décerner le 3 novembre le prix de la meilleure étude sur la civilisation islamique, des mains du Prince Hassan. Cette distinction saluait "L'émirat de Transjordanie, naissance et évolution (1921-1946)."

Crétien originaire de Mafrqa, M. Moussa, 68 ans, est actuellement conseiller culturel de la municipalité d'Amman. Autodidacte, il a consacré trente ans de sa vie à la recherche historique. Son premier ouvrage, "La grande révolution arabe," remonte à 1957. Il a depuis publié une vingtaine de livres sur l'histoire de la Jordanie. L'an dernier, la sortie de "Voyage en Jordanie et en Palestine" n'est pas passée inaperçue: il s'agissait d'une compilation d'articles de voyageurs étrangers sur les conditions de vie des deux régions au siècle dernier.

Mais l'œuvre maîtresse de l'historien reste "Histoire de la Jordanie au XXème siècle, référence en la matière, écrit en collaboration avec l'avocat Munib Madi en 1959. Camouflet pour les

thèses coloniales. "Songes et mésanges de Lawrence (éd. Simbad, Paris 1973) publié en 1966, répond aux allégations occidentales selon lesquelles l'officier britannique aurait été le véritable instigateur de la révolte arabe de 1916. Son plaidoyer a été traduit en anglais, français et japonais.

Suleiman Moussa

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Amigo Nabil: bien saignant

Il a beau ne pas être italien, l'am Nabil Nachachib sait faire les lassagnes. Pas sectaire, il propose aussi bien les mezzés que cuisines italiennes et européennes. Et il est très à cheval sur la viande de boeuf, qu'il va lui-même choisir sur le marché, ainsi que ses légumes. Chez Nabil, on peut commander un filet saucisson, sans danger d'avoir à en découper avec un morceau de carne grossièrement attendri au maïs. A la qualité de la viande s'ajoute un cadre rustique à l'européenne. Napperie style anglo-saxon, nappes à carreaux façon Roger-la-frête, éclairage tamisé à la bougie. Très exotique sous ces latitudes.

Pour les intellectuels en mal de liberté d'expression, les murs

sont garnis de panneaux où chacun peut griffonner ses élucubrations après un bon verre de vin rouge. Coincidence? L'Amigo Nabil est fréquenté par les artistes, éditorialistes, et autres dentistes de la capitale. La bourgeoisie bon teint se mêle aux gens du spectacle, les expatriés aux Jordaniens. Et pourtant, on est loin du luxe tape-à-l'œil et des additions immodes qui vont souvent de pair avec une telle clientèle. Pour un repas réparateur, compter 5 dinars environ. Et ne surrou pas passer à côté de l'excellente soupe à l'oignon en ouverture. Nabil sait faire.

Amigo Nabil, à l'hôtel Granada, à l'heure du dîner, commandez à 23h30. Tel: 63031.

MANGER

A L'AFFICHE

RADIO

Jacques Brel

Ce dimanche soir, Radio Jordanie commémore le dixième anniversaire de la mort du grand chanteur belge. De 22h00 à 23h00, Samir Kamal diffusera son Sunday evening show des chansons du "grand Jacques" et évoquera la vie de Brel en compagnie de Jean-Pierre Maury, responsable de la cellule audio-visuelle régionale française.

CINÉ-CLUB

(Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30) Le 12: Flash dance. The chemist. Heaven can wait. Chisum, 48 hours. Le 13: Guns and fury. Two of a kind. Goodbye, girl. The army with five men. The deer hunter. Le 14: Cabaret, Hair, Salvador, Zoltan, Raiders of the lost ark. Le 15: The park. Silent movie. Meaning of life. Rains over Santiago. The pirates. Le 16: The hand. Georgia's right. Rebecca, John and Mary. The passenger. Le 17: Doctor Jivago. The connection. Unmarried, Shoot the moon. Le 18: The survivor. Three guns to Cesar. The elevator. The snake's egg. Frankenstein junior.

U.S. officials disavow view Bush advocates lower dollar

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. officials sought Friday to dispel an impression in the foreign exchange markets that the incoming Bush administration would tolerate a lower dollar to repair the nation's trade performance.

But foreign exchange traders said the effort came too late to check the dollar's slide to 10-month lows against the yen, and one dealer predicted the dollar would test 120 yen next week.

Commerce Secretary William Verity said in Washington that the dollar's current exchange value was fair, while in London, Treasury Undersecretary George Gould said the administration had no interest in seeing a weaker dollar.

The remarks appeared aimed at undoing the damage to the dollar caused earlier in the week when Martin Feldstein, a Bush adviser, said the currency needed to fall at least 20 per cent in the next three years if the United States was to balance its trade account.

Gould said Feldstein, former chief of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, has expressed this view for some time.

"I must emphasize that we, as a matter of policy, have no interest in seeing the dollar lower," he said.

In the past week, however, Feldstein has been joined by other influential economists, such as C. Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economists in Washington, who concurred

that the U.S. trade deficit will not shrink much under current conditions.

The officials' disavowal "comes too late to change sentiment," said a dealer with a big U.S. bank.

Since Wednesday, the dollar has tumbled from 125.73 yen to 122.85 on Friday's close in New York, and has lost more than five pennies against the Deutsche-mark to 1.7375.

The currency had slipped as low as 122.35 yen and 1.7310 marks in Europe, but edged slightly higher in New York as dealers squared their positions ahead of the weekend.

One dealer predicted that "the market will test 120 yen and 1.7250 marks next week." That would push the U.S. currency below its record low of 120.45 yen last Jan. 4.

On strictly technical considerations, the dollar has been oversold, said Tony Mathers, an official with Wespac Bank in London, but he said the market was feeling so negative about the dollar now that it was ignoring the charts.

The currency has been weighed down by a number of factors: Concerns that President-elect George Bush would tolerate a lower dollar, doubts whether a

Financial markets don't really

care about how to reduce the deficit, they just want to know the government is earnest in getting the deficit down," economist Murray Weidenbaum said in an interview.

Economists, lawmakers see need to cut budget deficit

Meanwhile economists and lawmakers said that Bush must make his mark early on reducing the U.S. budget deficit or risk facing an economic crisis in the first year of his presidency.

Bush promised during his campaign to make reducing the budget deficit a top priority in his administration but provided few details on how he would cut the deficit.

Bush had been the choice of the business community but traders worry whether Bush would be able to deliver on his promise to reduce the deficit without raising taxes.

"Financial markets don't really

Democratic and Republican congressional leaders said this pledge could make his efforts at early compromise with Congress difficult.

"I don't know if any Democrat would join in a tax increase," Senator Bill Bradley, a New Jersey Democrat and key player in tax and budget talks said.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said Bush's anti-tax stance may not include higher federal excise taxes on petrol, alcohol and tobacco or fees for government services.

The cornerstone of Bush's budget plan, the flexible freeze, would hold spending increases to the rate of inflation while increases in tax revenues brought on by economic growth would solve the deficit problem. He has also pledged to leave social security retirement payments untouched.

Japan set to take strong role on Third World debt

TOKYO (R) — The next American president has to deal with a more forceful Japan on the thorny problem of Third World debt.

Senior Japanese officials and bankers have made clear that they do not believe a U.S. plan to help debt-ridden developing nations is working.

"We see the situation as very serious," said Koji Kashiwaya, deputy director general at the finance ministry.

Washington can ill afford to ignore Tokyo's advice on the debt question because Japan is the world's biggest creditor.

As such, it is increasingly being put on the spot by developing nations looking for money to solve their economic problems.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The U.S. plan, fashioned by former U.S. treasury secretary James Baker, calls for leading nations, multilateral organizations and banks to lend more money to indebted countries which put their economies in order.

According to Japanese officials, the plan's Achilles heel is the failure of commercial banks to come up with extra money for developing nations.

Bank of Tokyo Chairman Yusuke Kashiwaya told foreign journalists last month that Japanese banks will refuse to give

any more money to the debt-ridden Third World unless major nations act to make those loans more attractive.

"Without some credit enhancement, how can you get private banks to lend more money?" Kashiwaya asked. "I am furious about the matter."

Multilateral development banks have also been slow in extending new money to the Third World, Kashiwaya said.

"We definitely need the support of other donor countries to help fill the gap caused by private banks and multilateral development banks," Kashiwaya told Reuters in an interview.

Japan's answer to the problem is the so-called Miyazawa initiative, named after Finance Minister Kuchi Miyazawa. It calls for developing countries to swap bonds for some of their commercial bank debt on a one-for-one basis.

The interest rate on the bonds would be guaranteed by a trust fund made up of developing nations' foreign currency reserves and administered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Contrary to expectations, however, Japan played down the proposal at the recent IMF/World Bank annual meeting in West Berlin.

Kashiwaya said Japan decided against trumpeting its proposal in West Berlin for fear this would foster jealousy of its growing economy.

The Miyazawa initiative would not do that, he said.

nomic power and antagonism toward the plan itself.

Some delegates speculated U.S. opposition to the Japanese idea also played a part in Tokyo's decision not to push it more strongly, though Kashiwaya said such opposition was not so certain.

In what some in West Berlin saw as a swipe at the Japanese proposal, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady warned against any plans for solving the Third World debt crisis by transferring risk from private banks to governments.

"Such a bail-out argument is nonsense," Kashiwaya said.

By allowing U.S. banks to write off some of the developing country debt to them against taxes, the Reagan administration is already providing the banks with some sort of debt relief at the expense of the public sector.

"That is also a bail-out," Kashiwaya said.

But he was equally dismissive of Democratic Party proposals to allow developing countries to write off some of their debt.

Miyazawa said that would provide the debtor nations with short-term relief. It was not a long-term solution, however, because it would only serve to discourage commercial banks from any future lending.

The Miyazawa initiative would not do that, he said.

Riyadh denies riyal devaluation

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia Saturday reaffirmed it had no plans to devalue its currency, dismissing speculation about such a move as baseless.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), quoting an official source, denied Saudi Arabia was to blame for volatility in the international oil markets.

The source said Saudi Arabia maintained that the volatility re-

sulted from the failure of other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to adhere to production quotas agreed by the 13-member group.

The source was reacting to Reuter reports that Saudi production in October had risen above its OPEC quota of 4.3 million barrels per day and that financial markets were speculating on a

devaluation against the U.S. dollar to boost the domestic value of oil revenues.

Interest rates in the Saudi riyal market fell in reaction to the SPA report ruling out a devaluation.

The agency quoted the source as saying Saudi Arabia wanted to set the record straight because the reports and speculation were harming its economic interests.

Norway quells crown rumours

OSLO (R) — Norwegian Finance Minister Gunnar Berge has quashed rumours that Oslo is

intends to devalue the crown — a rumour that was partly responsible for depressing the nation's currency last week.

"That is ridiculous and absolutely not the case," Berge told the daily Stavanger Aftenblad Saturday.

State television reported the central bank bought five billion crowns (\$760 million) in currency

devaluation.

Norway last devalued the crown in the spring of 1986 — by 12 per cent — when a collapse in the price for its North Sea oil threatened to create a major economic recession.

Labour Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said there would be only one devaluation and Norway would subsequently solve its economic problems by other means.

"The matter needs more

Ethiopia pushes investment reform

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The ruling Marxist Workers' Party of Ethiopia has lifted one million birr (\$250,000) ceiling previously imposed on private investment as one of the moves to revive the country's sluggish economy.

The party's Central Committee Friday announced the decision after five days of debate, including discussions of a lengthy report President Mengistu Haile Mariam presented.

The ministers called on the United States for a "clear, unqualified undertaking" to seek agreement at Montreal to a package of urgent measures and on the European Community to clarify and elaborate its proposal to enable serious talks to be held.

"They cautioned, however, that continued resistance on the part particularly of the United States and the European Community to demonstrate the requisite degree of negotiating flexibility could seriously jeopardise the mid-term review," the statement added.

Mengistu, in his Monday speech however, included hotels

needed increased financial support and managerial training for their employees.

"Although this may be new to us, socialist countries have launched joint ventures which have proved successful," he said.

The committee also urged the government's Central Planning Authority to come up with proposals of the future role of the private sector in the economy. It also called for a clear indication of the products to be handled by the private sector in the country's retail trade, currently a state monopoly.

The committee expressed the need for establishing heavy industries in order to reduce the country's dependence on foreign suppliers for machinery and spare parts.

However, the committee noted that agriculture remained the country's economic base, and said state farms and cooperatives

watch on the Chaikas in Gorky and more often than not their passengers were "ladies, elderly people or youths, probably relatives of highly-placed persons who are themselves at work."

"I can foresee the reaction from the owners of personal Chaikas — 'my car is for representational purposes.' That may be the case, and perhaps top leaders need their own transport, but at the same time the plant is throwing a million roubles into the wind every year. Where is the justice?" Barabashin said he kept a close

"But they were sold — largely to ministers, Communist Party and state organisations — at an official price of only 28,000 roubles

(\$44,800). Barabashin said in an article in the daily Socialist Industry.

"As a result, our factory which is supposed to be self-financing loses one million roubles (\$1.6 million) a year, which we have to pay out of our pockets," he added.

"This has been going on for decades. Earlier, we kept quiet about it, but we can't any longer. We have to count every kopek, but at the same time the plant is throwing a million roubles into the wind every year. Where is the justice?"

Barabashin said he kept a close

watch on the Chaikas in Gorky and more often than not their passengers were "ladies, elderly people or youths, probably relatives of highly-placed persons who are themselves at work."

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Bahrain may privatise industries

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain is considering plans to transfer some of its government-owned industries to the private sector, finance ministry undersecretary Isa Borsbaid said in remarks published Saturday.

"The matter needs more

study... which includes taking domestic economic circumstances into consideration," the Arabic weekly Al Adhwa quoted him as saying.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Navratilova, Maleeva move to semifinals

CHICAGO (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova avenged her U.S. Open loss to Zina Garrison by defeating the seventh seed in the quarter-finals of the \$250,000 Chicago Tennis Tournament Friday night. Navratilova, the defending champion, needed just 61 minutes to oust the ninth-ranked Garrison 6-3, 6-3 and set up a semifinal against fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia. Earlier, fourth seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria disposed of 18-year-old American Ann Grossman 6-2, 6-1 in 57 minutes. Maleeva will face second-seeded Chris Evert in the other semifinal Saturday.

U.S. vs. Paraguay in Davis Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States and Paraguay will play their 1989 first-round Davis Cup match at Fort Myers, Florida, the U.S. Tennis Association announced Friday. The best-of-five series, to be played Feb. 3-5, will mark the United States' reappearance in world group competition after a one-year relegation to the American zone. The United States advanced into the world group by defeating Peru and Argentina this year, thereby gaining the zonal title. Representing the Americans this year are Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Jay Berger and Olympic doubles gold medalists Ken Flach and Robert Seguso. It will be only the second time a Davis Cup match has been played in Florida. In 1954, the United States defeated Cuba at St. Petersburg, Florida. This will be the second Davis Cup meeting between the two nations, Paraguay upsetting the United States 3-2 in a controversial match played in Paraguay in 1987.

2 Belgians sentenced

MONACO (AP) — Two Belgian supporters of the soccer club FC Bruges were sentenced Friday to three months in jail for violence during the European champion match Nov. 9 between Monaco and Bruges, the French news agency Agence-France Presse reported Saturday. Marc Bruyninx, 24, and Peter Vinck, 25, were found guilty of setting fire to publicity banners during the match at Monaco's Louis II stadium. No injuries were reported. Police and firemen turned heavy-duty hoses on a group of Belgian supporters to disperse the group and extinguished the fire. In addition to the three month jail term, the two men were fined \$25 each by the Monaco court.

Commercial team wins Championship

MOSCOW (AP) — Dnieper of Dnepropetrovsk became the first commercially run Soviet soccer team to win the Soviet National Championship Friday night with a 3-1 victory over the Lithuanian team Zalgiris. Taking advantage of economic opportunities created under President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Dnieper three years ago severed ties with the trade union that had run it for decades and set up its own self-financing plan.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

MORE ABOUT CONTROL

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 10 7
♦ A 8 6 4 3
♦ J 5 2
♦ A 3 2

WEST EAST
♦ Q ♦ 9 6 5 3
♦ 7 ♦ Q 7
♦ A K 10 8 6 4 ♦ 9 7
♦ K 9 8 4 ♦ 10 5

SOUTH
♦ A K 8 4 2
♦ K 10 9 5
♦ Q 3
♦ 7 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♦ Dbl Pass
2 ♦ 3 ♠ 4 ♦ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Some players consider it a personal insult if their opponents win a trick. As declarer, there is no harm in letting the defenders take their share of tricks—providing, of course, you are not in grand slam. In standard methods, North would have no good bid after West's overcall. Fortunately, his side was playing "negative" doubles, where the double of an overcall

shows a limited hand and is for takeout, not penalties. However, his subsequent jump to four hearts was rather aggressive; he had little to reserve over what he had already shown with his double.

West cashed his two top diamonds and continued with a third round of the suit. When East ruffed with the queen, declarer overruffed and cashed his other high trump. Then he started on spades in the hope that the suit would split evenly; that would allow him to discard dummy's two club losers, thus holding his losers to three red-suit tricks. That was not to be, so the result was down one.

The contract would have been easy to make if declarer had been prepared to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's." His decision to overruff at trick three not only gained nothing, it actually cost a trick.

See what happens if, instead, declarer simply allows East to score his queen of trumps while he discards his club loser—a trick which he would have to concede anyway. Declarer can win any return and, when trumps now fall in two rounds, he can claim the rest of the tricks.

Chievous bound for basketball stardom

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets rookie Derrick Chievous is being touted for stardom with just four NBA games under his belt.

In the Rockets' 106-99 victory over the Utah Jazz Thursday night, Chievous came off the bench to score 27 points in 35 minutes while replacing starting small forward Bob Johnson.

"The guy's fantastic," Houston coach Don Chaney said. "He wanted the ball badly. He reminds me of John Havlicek. Things happen for him and he's still maturing. Without a doubt, he's going to be a star."

In Thursday's only other game, Denver beat Portland 113-115. Chievous, the Rockets' first-round pick from Missouri last year, seems to exude confidence both on and off the court.

"My background makes me good enough for this league," Chievous said. "I played against guys who should be here. I'm here so I must be in the same class as the other NBA players."

Houston centre Akeem Olajuwon, who led the 2-2 Rockets with 35 points, 19 rebounds and five steals, also is a believer in Chievous.

"He can get it done because he's sure of his game and he can deliver," Olajuwon said. "Definitely, he will be a star in the NBA."

The effect of Chievous in a 19-6 run by Houston in the second half wasn't lost on Karl Malone of the Jazz, who scored 25 points along with 10 rebounds.

"Akeem and Chievous took over the game," Malone said. "They ran their offense well down the stretch and came back after we were up 81-71."

The victory was especially nice for Chaney, trying to mesh Chievous and seven other new players. The downside of that adjustment had been second-half collapses in two games.

"We picked it up toward the end, unlike some other games this year," Chaney said. "It's important for our bench to be capable of contributing. We played like we wanted to win."

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

As Chartered By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

The elderly are in focus today. Parents and family members are reflected on, as are the homeless and needy. Those separated from loved ones may feel homesick. Offer assistance to those lonely or in need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Reckless a restless spirit of adventure. Expand your talents and skills by gaining new knowledge. Look into areas not yet explored.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Social gatherings and public meetings provide places to meet people. Start early to avoid traffic.

CARCINUS (May 21 to June 21) Your active mind and restless nature need stimulation. Boredom goes against your grain. Rekindle old projects that were shelved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If the weather permits, outside activities would be a fresh change. Relieve tensions at home by compromising. Be considerate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Moodiness and emotional upsets occur when a compromise fails. Finish projects and chores. It would be wise to listen to others today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your approach to the day is slow. Energy

comes in spurts. Use your creative skills around the house. Shopping may be disappointing today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Children will enjoy spending time with you today. You are warm and friendly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 22) Listen to your intuition. Try a fresh approach to the day. Nature inspires you. You may be on the go more than you would like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 to Dec. 21) Lowered energy and mental strain make the morning drag. Later your blood gets circulating, and others find it hard to keep up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Romantic interest blooms. Your plans for the day are interrupted. Try not to take changes too seriously, and go with the flow.

ARQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) People around you may be touchy. Say the right thing, be direct and don't beat around the bush. Plan for a favorite activity.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You get the silent treatment from someone close. Go about your business with plans for home improvement, running errands and shopping.

Jordan to host int'l bridge championship

AS A PART of the celebrations of the Kingdom on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian Bridge Association will organise the Amman seventh international bridge festival during the period 15-20 November, 1988. Bridge champions from sister and friendly countries such as Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Greece and France in addition to about 100 male and female champions from the Jordanian Bridge Association will participate.

Championship contests will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Amman with support from International Traders and Pepsi-Cola. The festival will include open pairs, mixed pairs and open teams contests. Prizes will be given on the last day of the festival during the gala dinner.

The management of the association has as well organised for the guests intensive sightseeing programmes of the tourist places of Jordan. The Jordanian Bridge Association hereby appeals to all bridge players and admirers in Jordan to take part in this championship and participate towards making it a success and in the best possible manner so as to reflect the ever honourable and bright picture of Jordan.

It is a well known fact that bridge is an intellectual sport the same as chess and needs extensive concentration as it depends on plans which require concentrated meditation and constant reading of books about the rules and plans of this game. It is worthwhile mentioning on this occasion that some foreign developed countries teach bridge in schools in view of its effect in developing the brains of children and enlightening them at an early stage — Jordan Bridge Association press release.

McEnroe tumbles out of Stuttgart Classic

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — John McEnroe clashed disastrously with the referee as he lost 5-7, 7-6 (7-1), 6-3 to Olympic champion Milosav Mecir in their Stuttgart Classic Tennis Tournament semifinal Saturday.

The 29-year-old American walked off court and refused to play for three minutes in the first set after British referee George Grime hit him with a one-point penalty for slamming his racket on the floor when he was 5-3 up and at set point.

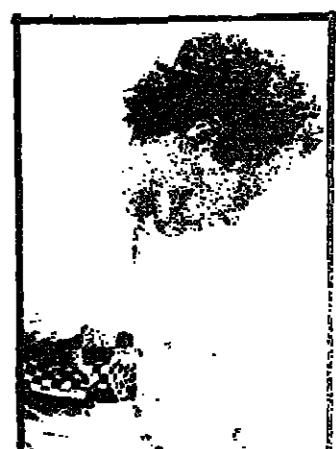
Though he lost the game, McEnroe fought back to take the set 7-5. But the incident upset his composure and the Czechoslovak took the next two sets.

Grime earlier warned the world number 14 in the third game after he shouted at a linesman who foot-faulted him.

When the point was taken away later, McEnroe walked to his seat at the side of the court and sat there arguing with Grime and with tournament officials as the 7,000-crowd whistled and slow-clapped.

"After that whole incident I lost the feeling of enjoying the match totally. I lost my spirit," he said afterwards.

"It stopped being pleasure and



John McEnroe

turned into business — like a nine to five job I had been doing for 12 years."

"One of the main things I am trying to do at the moment is enjoy my tennis... I got mentally and physically tired easily after that."

Senna takes pole for Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE (R) — Ayrton Senna confirmed his right to hold the formula one crown by taking pole position for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix in the dying minutes of the final qualifying session Saturday.

Brazilian world champion-elect Senna and French teammate Alain Prost scurched around the streets of Adelaide trading fastest lap times, but it was Senna who clinched the number one spot with one minute 17.748 seconds.

"Here at Adelaide, pole position is not really an advantage because it is on the dirty side of the circuit," Senna said referring to the pole being off the best and cleanest driving line.

Prost, who was unlucky with the traffic, said: "The main problem for me today was brakes. We changed the discs after the morning session and I was much less confident."

At temperatures reaching 35 degrees Celsius, the Honda turbo-powered McLarens of Senna and Prost took the first two places on the grid ahead of Britain's Nigel Mansell in his non-turbo engined Williams, though he failed to better his time from Friday's first session.

Mansell's team-mate Ricardo

Patrese dropped two places to sixth position on the grid, behind reigning world champion Nelson Piquet's Lotus who improved on Friday's eighth position.

Austrian Berger drove his Ferrari one spot higher to fourth, trimming more than half a second from Friday's time.

The thrilling close to the qualifying followed a spectacular crash 40 minutes into the hour-long session. The track was closed and practice suspended as officials cleared the wrecked benetton of Italian Alessandro Nannini.

"I spun in the middle of what looked like being my best lap," Nannini said. "I touched a kerb at the exit of a corner and, since I was right on the limit, I lost control."

Nannini was uninjured and

Frenchman Pierre-Henri Raphanel who failed to get his Lola into what would have been his first formula one event.

The 27-year-old formula 3000 competitor took the drive of Yannick Dalmas who is ill with a chest infection linked to a mild form of legionnaires disease, his team said.

Tyson, Givens fail to meet face-to-face

UNDEFEATED heavyweight for a reconciliation.

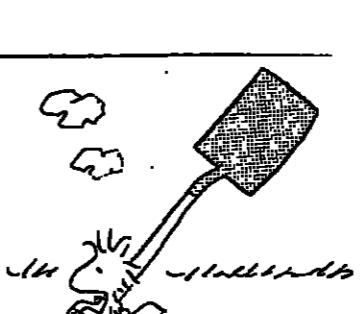
"That's straight out of fantasy world. She wasn't pleading for a rematch. In fact, Mike called her yesterday and asked her to come to New York," said Felder.

Givens intends to keep her pledge not to ask for any of Tyson's money, said Felder, who blamed the delay on reaching a settlement on problems in figuring out how much in their joint accounts belonged to each.



Mike Tyson Robin Givens

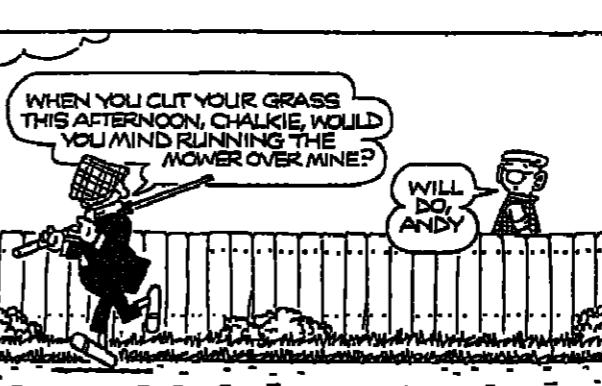
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Estonians pursue sovereignty

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An emergency parliamentary session in the Soviet Republic of Estonia is to be urged to "declare the sovereignty of the Estonian people" and demand a veto right on Soviet legislation, sources in the republic said Saturday.

The agenda for Wednesday's session, drawn up by a constitutional commission under Estonian President Arnold Rantel, also calls on deputies to reject controversial changes planned by the Kremlin to the Soviet constitution.

The agenda's contents were disclosed by a member of the commission, Edgar Savisaar, during a discussion programme on Estonian television Friday night.

the sources, quoted by Reuters, said.

Savisaar spoke only hours after Viktor Chebrikov, a member of the ruling Soviet Politburo, warned Estonians not to go too far in their independence drive.

"You can achieve sovereignty but you can lose everything else," Chebrikov warned factory workers in the Estonian capital Tallinn, in a speech broadcast on the republic's radio. "You cannot de-

part from the reality that has arisen around us."

Chebrikov, a former head of the KGB security police who since September has headed a new Communist Party Legal Affairs Commission, was sent to Estonia in response to mass unrest over the Kremlin's draft proposals that Estonians fear would tighten control by Moscow.

Savisaar, who is a leading member of the republic's powerful popular front mass movement, said:

Lithuanian radio reported Slyunkov faced protest pickets sparked off by the "evident shortcomings" of the planned changes when he arrived in the Lithuanian

capital, Vilnius.

The Estonian popular front and sister movements in the other two republics have emerged as powerful forces in recent months demanding more autonomy for the republics, independent until they were absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940.

Moscow moves

Late Friday, however, the Central Committee announced it would hold a special plenary meeting in mid-1989 to overhaul party policy on dealing with the country's more than 100 ethnic groups.

Gorbachev first spoke in

February of holding such a plenum after Armenia and Azerbaijan, two Soviet republics in the Caucasus, split over a territorial dispute.

The meeting will seek to delineate more precisely the responsibilities of the Moscow government from those of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the other Soviet republics, the Central Committee said in a resolution carried by TASS.

"The task of perfecting relations among nationalities is acquiring special importance and urgency," the Central Committee said.

"The agenda is only provisional and a lot may change by Wednesday."

Polish police quell anniversary march

WARSAW (R) — Riot police beat marchers with batons and used water cannon to break up an anti-communist march by about 5,000 people in the Polish port of Gdansk late Friday, opposition sources said.

Police dispersed rallies on the 70th anniversary of Poland's independence in the western city of Poznan and in Katowice in the south and at least one woman was taken to hospital, the sources said.

About 15,000 people marched unhindered through Warsaw chanting anti-government slogans and singing freedom songs carrying banners supporting the banned Solidarity trade union. Police prevented a later march by about 1,000 youths.

Marches and rallies elsewhere, including gatherings of 10,000 in the southern cities of Krakow and Wroclaw, passed off peacefully, the sources said.

In Gdansk, where Solidarity was born amid strikes there in 1980, police wearing helmets and wielding long white batons moved in on the crowd after

youths threw stones at them. The official news agency PAP said the youths tore up paving stones, set fire to garbage bins and threw stones at police.

It did not say if the police had made any arrests or if anyone had been hurt.

The crowd marched after a mass at Saint Mary's Basilica Church on the anniversary of Poland's re-emergence as an independent state after 123 years of subjugation to Austria, Prussia and Russia.

In Katowice, police drove vans into a crowd of about 1,000 people to disperse a rally. One woman was hit by a police van and taken to hospital. Solidarity sources said.

Police also dispersed crowds in Poznan and there were some minor clashes, the opposition sources said. It was not clear if anyone was arrested or hurt.

In Warsaw, marchers chanted "We want Lech not Wojciech" in support of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and against Poland's communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski.



People in Manila and other parts of the Philippines fled their flooded homes in the wake of Typhoon Skip's rampage

Philippine typhoon toll hits 670

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines death toll from three recent storms rose Friday to 670 as authorities feared up to 600 people were swept away by flooding and landslides on Palawan Island alone.

The Philippine Red Cross said reports reaching the capital indicated at least 75 people were killed by widespread flooding and landslides on the remote island, 400 kilometres southwest of Manila.

Red Cross official Lourdes Masing said the island was hit

hard by floods and mudslides triggered by rains from tropical storm Tess last weekend and by typhoon Skip early this week.

Before Tess and Skip, typhoon Ruby battered the country Oct. 24-25.

The Office of Civil Defence on Palawan Island said landslides and floods hit last Friday and Saturday.

"We heard about the floods Nov. 6, but it was not only until yesterday that the reports of the deaths started coming," said Tito Larrosa, Palawan civil defence coordinator.

Palawan, known as the Philippines' "last frontier" because of its mountain and jungle cover, is isolated from the rest of the country with the exception of its provincial capital, Puerto Princesa.

Communications are virtually non-existent between towns on Palawan, and until Friday's reports, authorities had reported only 11 deaths from Tess.

Larrosa said among the hardest hit of Palawan's towns was Rizal, where 23 people were killed by mountain torrents of mud and water.

Controversy stirs over U.S. interference in Canada polls

OTTAWA (R) — President Reagan's decision to speak out next week in support of the proposed Canada-U.S. free trade agreement has touched off a controversy over U.S. interference in Canada's Nov. 21 federal election.

Although the speech could help Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's efforts to win a second term for his Conservative govern-

ment, opponents also say the move could backfire.

The Conservatives and opposition liberals, who have vowed to tear up the agreement if they are elected, are running neck-and-neck according to three recent opinion polls.

The trade agreement, the central issue in the campaign, is strongly supported by Reagan and the deal has already cleared

all legislative hurdles in the United States.

But it will only be implemented as scheduled Jan. 1 if the Mulroney government wins a majority.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Thursday that Reagan would come to the defence of the agreement as part of a major speech on international trade policy.

The trade agreement, the central issue in the campaign, is strongly supported by Reagan and the deal has already cleared

Mystery surrounds Haiti colonel's death

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, one of Haiti's most powerful and feared army commanders, reportedly once boasted that for \$100, "I can have anyone I want bumped off."

Paul died Sunday after drinking a bowl of soup. Friends, police and medical sources suspect he was poisoned, but radio reports said he had a heart attack.

He was buried Thursday outside his modest home on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. The coffin was buried face down because when foul play is suspected, Haitian voodoo customs say the death will be avenged within a week.

Political analysts say one hypothesis is that Paul's death was related to drug trafficking. Another theory was that he may have been knocked off for political reasons.

Paul had many enemies — and also many followers.

Known to pay out of own pockets to keep his men happy, the 29-year career army veteran could be generous.

"His handouts may have come from narcotics traffic but his men saw him as a father," said a well-known political analyst, who asked not to be identified.

In March, a Miami federal grand jury indicted Paul on three counts of drug conspiracy. The indictment said Paul used a private airstrip for drug runs. Efforts to bring him to trial were futile because the United States has no extradition treaty with Haiti.

But the charges put a damper on relations with the U.S. government, which has refused to resume \$70 million in aid suspended after an election-day massacre in November 1987. In a bid to renew the aid, the new government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril forced Paul to retire in September.

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Red Cross official Lourdes Masing said the island was hit

hard by floods and mudslides triggered by rains from tropical storm Tess last weekend and by typhoon Skip early this week.

Before Tess and Skip, typhoon Ruby battered the country Oct. 24-25.

The Office of Civil Defence on Palawan Island said landslides and floods hit last Friday and Saturday.

"We heard about the floods Nov. 6, but it was not only until yesterday that the reports of the deaths started coming," said Tito Larrosa, Palawan civil defence coordinator.

Palawan, known as the Philippines' "last frontier" because of its mountain and jungle cover, is isolated from the rest of the country with the exception of its provincial capital, Puerto Princesa.

Communications are virtually non-existent between towns on Palawan, and until Friday's reports, authorities had reported only 11 deaths from Tess.

Larrosa said among the hardest hit of Palawan's towns was Rizal, where 23 people were killed by mountain torrents of mud and water.

Research exposes shocking effects of TV on children

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

LUND, Sweden — "I was scared when the man's stomach was ripped open with a knife and the blood went everywhere," said an 11-year-old child quoted in a Swedish study on the effects of television viewing on children.

Lund University sociologist Inga Sonesson headed a team which measured and monitored television viewing by 200 children from the southern Swedish city of Malmö from the age of six to 16.

Her book, entitled "Who Is Bringing Up Our Children?", is to be published next month in Sweden. Its conclusions are shocking.

"We found a clear and unmistakeable statistical correlation between excessive television and video viewing on the one hand and the development of anti-social behaviour and emotional problems on the other," Sonesson told Reuters in an interview.

The researchers found that this held true even when home background was taken into account. Children whose parents were better educated experienced the same problems as those with less well-educated parents if the children watched a lot of television.

The study began in 1975 when Sonesson and her co-workers first interviewed the children who were selected to represent a cross-section of the population. The six-year-olds were then at pre-school day-care centres.

Subsequent interviews were conducted when the children were aged seven, nine, 11, 14 and 16. At every stage, researchers also questioned teachers and parents. The same young people are still being followed today, making the Swedish study unique in the world for its duration.

Sonesson said she approached the project with positive feelings about television, which she believed could be an enjoyable and educational medium. But a different reality quickly emerged.

"I found that many six-year-olds were seeing adult programmes that were often violent and totally unsuitable. One very negative effect was that many were frightened. They had nightmares which followed them for a very long time," she said.

Sonesson established that six-year-olds who watched less than two hours television a day were much less likely to experience emotional problems or learning difficulties later on.

"But watching two-and-a-

half hours or more a day at age six led to problems five or six years later. Teachers reported that these children were more aggressive, more anxious and had greater problems maintaining concentration," she said.

Children who at six were not described by their teachers as being aggressive, tended to become aggressive by the age of 12 if they watched several hours of television daily.

In neutral Sweden, where governments vigorously advocate world disarmament, and pacifism has a strong following, television programmes are carefully scrutinised for their political, social and moral messages.

Television viewing reached its height when the children were 11 to 12 years old. At that age, boys on average were watching 143 minutes a day and girls 123 minutes. But these averages disguised wide variations. Some children were watching far more.

One conclusion from the study was that there should be stricter control on the most violent videos backed up by more stringent penalties for violators. But beyond that, a heavy burden rested on parents.

Soviets break space record

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet cosmonauts aboard the space station Mir broke the world's 326-day space endurance record Saturday and are on target to stay up a full year until Dec. 21, TASS said. Commander Vladimir Titov, 41, has lost two kilograms in weight and co-pilot Musa Manarov, 37, has gained 1.5 kilograms, but generally "the functioning of their organisms is within norm," TASS said. "True there are small changes in the muscles perimeters and weight," TASS said. "But the changes in the cosmonauts' state do not exceed the deviations in respective parameters shown by (Yuri) Romanenko." Romanenko set the previous space endurance record aboard Mir in December.

Mother Teresa visits shantytown

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (AP) — Surrounded by impoverished children, Mother Teresa visited a black shantytown Friday and called for more love and peace in the world. The 78-year-old nun and Nobel Peace Prize winner arrived in Port Elizabeth after spending three days in Cape Town, where she selected a site for a charity mission in Khayelitsha, a black township on the outskirts of the city. She has said she does not plan to establish any additional missions on her week-long visit to South Africa, but that she wanted to see other needy areas. While in Port Elizabeth, she travelled to Missionvale, a shantytown outside the city. She was warmly received and her car was immediately surrounded by children when she arrived in the township.

Dubcek to receive award

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — Former Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek, whose "Prague Spring" reforms were crushed by the 1968 Soviet-led invasion, has arrived in Bologna on his first trip abroad in 18 years. Officials of the University of Bologna, where Dubcek is to receive an honorary degree Sunday, declined to give details of his trip or whereabouts, saying only that he arrived in the city during the night. The Italian news agency ANSA reported that Dubcek arrived shortly before midnight Friday after a daylong trip by car from Bratislava and checked into a hotel in central Bologna. ANSA said Dubcek was accompanied by several faculty members of the university, which will award Dubcek an honorary degree in political science for his "role in defending democratic principles and personal liberties."

Sri Lankan strike causes food shortages

COLOMBO (AP) — Towns in the Sinhalese heartland faced serious food shortages Saturday because of a strike by fuel workers, a government official said, as workers defied a decree threatening some strikers with the death penalty.

About 2,500 employees of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, the island nation's only supplier of gasoline, walked off the job Monday in response to a four-day strike called by the People's Liberation Front. The Sinhalese extremist group is demanding the resignation of President Junius R. Jayewardene.

Many of the workers were still not back on duty by Saturday, despite an emergency decree issued by Jayewardene Friday providing for death by hanging for strike instigators and those refusing to report for work in "essential services" sectors, such as fuel and transportation.

Jayewardene Saturday appealed to people to refrain from supporting anti-government extremists.

"The recent disturbances have had adverse effects on economic and development plans of the country," he said, while presiding over the opening of a new terminal at Colombo's international airport, 25 kilometres north of the capital, near the village of Katunayake.

Sufficient food has been sent to the southern port town of

Galle, but gasoline shortages have prevented distribution to other towns in the region, food commissioner Graham Disanayake said Saturday.

Senior officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the government intended the emergency decree as a deterrent and hoped it would not be necessary to resort to capital punishment to end the strike.

P.M. Hamza, general manager of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, said the decree applied to his workers, since the corporation had been declared essential.

He said "a large number" of his employees had returned to work, and he expected others to report shortly, although he could not give any figures.

The decree was issued as businesses reopened following the four-day strike. It was the second tough measure introduced in a week in an effort to halt anti-government protests.

On Wednesday, the army was given orders to shoot on sight at anti-government demonstrators.

The strikes were the latest in a series called by the People's Liberation Front, which the government blames for the assassinations of 550 government officials and supporters in the last 15 months.

Bhutto draws huge crowds at rallies

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (R) — Benazir Bhutto has put on a powerful display of electoral strength, drawing massive crowds at emotional rallies on a final campaign push through central Pakistan.

Garlanded and showered with rose petals, Bhutto took the stage 11 hours late at a rally of more than 10